

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently amended): A surgical needle combination for implanting a sling,  
the combination comprising:

an elongate arcuate needle that is sized and shaped to withstand forces  
encountered during a sling implantation procedure; the needle having first and second  
ends;

means for associating the needle with a sling;

a first handle associated with an end of the needle; and

a second handle, separate from the first handle and situated along the needle,  
wherein the second handle includes handle repositioning means for affording axial  
repositioning of the second handle along the length of the needle; according to claim

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wherein the handle repositioning means of the second handle includes means  
for moving the second handle axially toward the first handle and for resisting  
movement of the second handle axially away from the first handle.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A surgical needle combination for implanting a sling,  
the combination comprising:

an elongate arcuate needle that is sized and shaped to withstand forces  
encountered during a sling implantation procedure; the needle having first and second  
ends;

means for associating the needle with a sling;

a first handle associated with an end of the needle; and

a second handle, separate from the first handle and situated along the needle,

wherein the second handle includes handle repositioning means for affording axial  
repositioning of the second handle along the length of the needle, according to claim

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wherein the first handle includes means for moving and repositioning the first  
handle relative to the needle.

Claim 13-17 (Canceled)